National Park Service 2014 Environmental Achievement Awards

Winner

Mr. Nathan Wilson, Fort Smith National Historic Site

LEDs Brightly Shining on the Western Frontier

Facility Services Assistant Nathan Wilson has played a key leadership role in advancing sustainable management at Fort Smith National Historic Site (FOSM). Mr. Wilson has motivated the staff at FOSM to take on sustainability as a priority at the park, with a special emphasis on energy efficiency and the management of greenhouse gas emissions. Though it is a small park, Mr. Smith's efforts have helped FOSM to become an example of sustainable management for parks throughout NPS.

Between 2010 and 2012, Mr. Wilson led the effort to progressively phase out incandescent and fluorescent bulbs in the park's visitor center with high efficiency LED fixtures, including in the park's bookstore, classroom, and courtroom museum. In 2013, Mr. Wilson moved on to the park's Second Jail Exhibit, replacing fifty 120-200 watt fixtures with sixty 11 watt LED bulbs. These efforts are now incorporated into the park's Climate Friendly Parks (CFP) plan. Mr. Wilson was instrumental in creating this plan at FOSM, helping to develop, coordinate, and present the first virtual CFP workshop to FOSM staff members. The park is now on its way to becoming the first CFP park in Arkansas, having completed 3 of 4 milestones.

In 2010 Mr. Wilson assisted the park's administrative officer in developing the park's Green Purchasing Plan that guides purchase card holders to consider sustainability when making purchases. As a purchase card holder, Nathan has been instrumental in converting many of the park's commonly used products to "green" alternatives. Green purchasing has expanded greatly at the park since 2010, and the NPS Sustainable Operations and Climate Change Branch has requested that the FOSM Green Purchasing Plan be posted on the SOCC website as an example for other parks.

Nathan Wilson provides a positive lead-by-example attitude and influence that inspires other park employees to achieve greater awareness and become more involved in sustainability and energy conservation efforts in their workplace and at home.